

Shopping for
unique utensils
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Defending design

No matter how great the design, in China the lion's share of the profits go to copycats.

But some domestic designers are fighting back.

Guan Wei, the operator of a popular vintage store, has persuaded Taobao to sweep out the sellers peddling low-quality copies of his new brick lamp.

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Page 6 Publication ends taboo

Top choreographer Chiang Ching's autobiography is finally available on the mainland.

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The best of the world abroad

Cruise guru Leo Liu Chengjun aims to introduce the finest aspects of Western luxury lifestyles to China's elite.



NGOs unite to protect Antarctic Ocean

By Liu Xiaochen

In spite of such guardians as the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition, Mission Blue and the World Wide Fund For Nature from Antarctic Ocean Alliance (AOA), the world's fifth ocean is in trouble.

The ocean plays an essential role in storing carbon, and changes in the Antarctic Ocean can have far-reaching consequences for the whole world, said Alex Rogers, a conservation specialist from Oxford University.

Rogers was invited to discuss Antarctic issues by Greenovation, a domestic NGO and member of AOA. The lecture was co-sponsored by Nature University, another domestic environmental NGO.

Rogers said China's scientists are becoming increasingly valued for their collaboration on deep ocean research.

"The fate of the Antarctic Ocean is very important for humanity's future," he said, "The world's oceans absorb one third of the carbon dioxide we produce, and the Antarctic has a key role. If we fail to protect its ecosystem, the Earth is certain to heat up."

He discussed some efforts to prevent over-fishing, such as pre-funding food. The



Alex Rogers lectures about why the Antarctic Ocean merits such attention.

Photo provided by Greenovation

Ross Sea, an important continental shelf off Antarctica, is especially important, as it has many new species of fish that have never appeared in other oceans.

During the lecture, Rogers threw his support behind a plan to create

marine protected areas (MAPs) to fight overfishing and climate change.

Overfishing upsets the amount of krill in the food system and breaks the food chain, he said.

Chen Jiliang, the head of Greenovation, said AOA

recommends establishing MAPs at 19 locations within the Antarctic Ocean, including the South Shetland Islands, South Georgia, South Orkney Islands, Ross Sea, Prince Edward Island and Wedell Sea.

The report, based on the

Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CAML), also recommended government control of industrial hunting and fishing, as well as harsher punishments for those who violate international law.

Rare disorder center hopes conference will bring patients autonomy



OI patients' mothers share their stories.

Photo provided by China-Dolls Center for Rare Disorders

By Liu Xiaochen

The China-Dolls Center for Rare Disorders is seeking aid and sponsors for its 3rd National Conference for Osteogenesis Imperfecta (OI) Patients this August.

The NGO hopes to recruit 50 people to participate in the welcoming committee, provide patient services, conduct interviews, develop promotional materials and record the event.

More than 300 OI patients and their families are expected to attend the conference in Beijing.

China-Dolls Center for Rare Disorders was founded by rare disease patients in May 2008 and registered with the Beijing Civil Affairs Bureau in 2011.

The national conference

has been held biennially since 2009. It offers patients and their families a chance to meet and discuss ways to manage the disease, including medical rehabilitation training, psychological intervention and employment possibilities. It also seeks to draw social and government attention to people who live with this disease.

Unlike many conferences, which are intended to bring community aid to vulnerable groups, the OI conference is built on autonomy and mutual assistance.

At a press conference on May 12, the organizers announced this year's conference would include a "Living Library" to allow OI patients and their mothers to record

and share their experiences and feelings.

The addition is intended for "readers" to understand the experiences of people living with OI and combat the barriers and discrimination from the general public.

The mother of Cui Ying, a young OI patient, was one of the first to share her story of acting as her son's teacher.

Xu Weiliang's mother said she was very happy her 19-year-old son could join the conference, since China-Dolls may be the key to him finding a suitable career.

A spokesperson for China-Dolls said it hopes to establish a national network to help OI patients reach out to each other and exchange information after this year's conference.

Cutthroat copycats a pain for indie designers

By Bao Chengrong

A great original work often helps unknown designers find fame overnight.

But on the Chinese mainland, it's the copycats who reap the rewards.

The nation's epidemic lack of enthusiasm for protecting original works is why many Chinese designers have started to fight for their rights.

Guan Wei, the operator of a vintage store, is among them. He has persuaded Taobao to pull off all the products that copy his most popular work: a brick lamp.

The first brick lamp was sold in Save As, a nondescript store in the Wudaoying Hutong. Although overlooked by the general public, its die-hard clientele swears by Save As as the place to source vinyl records and childhood nostalgia.

Guan Wei, the owner, is fascinated by traditional materials and uses them wherever possible in his designs. The brick lamp is one example.

In early 2012, Guan and his colleagues came up with the idea to make a brick-shaped lamp. For material, they chose reclaimed camphor wood for its durability and pleasant scent.

"Our original designs are based on finding a new use for old things. The goal is to provide a nostalgic personal experience – not necessarily to protect the environment," Guan said.

The lamp was copied within a month of appearing on Taobao, with many of the copycat makers stealing the advertisement pictured directly from Save As.

Guan said Taobao has two systems: AliExpress for the global market is strict enough to prevent repeated product photos, yet the platform for the domestic market has a loose Net filters to curb piracy.

But the counterfeit products were riddled with engineering errors, such as the use of flimsy iron wire in place of copper.

"They only want to make as much money as possible, so they never consider how the product will function. It's a waste of raw materials," Guan said.

"What's impossible to accept is how they stole our name and our product photos. But we do encourage people to make our products on their own and promote them," he said. "The Chinese market cannot follow the international standard for protect-



Brick lamp



Save As, a vintage store

Photos provided by Guan Wei



Megaphone for iPhone

Guan is one of the few who continues to improve upon his products. His brick lamp has been through eight revisions, including a slight change in switch height.

Because of the limited materials, brick lamps are only available by pre-order. Still, many customers prefer to take the plunge rather than purchase potential fire hazards on Taobao.

Most of Guan's customers are young people who buy multiple copies of each product to give as a gift to their friends. Guan said many customers have promoted his products on Sina Weibo and posted pictures of their own modifications.

Pricing is another challenge. Meng said most independent designers struggle to find one that is suitable.

Often a product costs 50 yuan to make and sells for 100 yuan. When the designer is also the producer, this means each unit sold can net 50 yuan in profit.

The problem is when demand increases and the designer must find a factory. If the factory demands a 20 yuan cut, the profit drops to 30. When agents get involved and ask for a 30 to 50 percent royalty, the business is doomed.

Guan said that was why he chose the pre-order model. His brick lamps are priced 299 yuan, making them affordable enough to attract many buyers.

"I build my products to last. I hope they will all be functional when the next generation comes of age," Guan said.

ing original designs. If we did, our work would never catch on."

Guan said promotion is still the biggest challenge for domestic designers. Some websites such as Jue.so have been trying to fill in the gap.

Meng Yiyang, project manager of Jue.so, said copyright piracy is the norm for domestic designers. Since they can rarely manage quick and efficient production, their designs are likely to be pirated as soon as they are unveiled.

It doesn't take long for counterfeits to dominate the market.

Meng sees two possible solutions: designs that are technically difficult to copy, or brands strong enough to stand out for their innovation. Few designers have achieved both.

Leo Liu Art of

By Zhao Hongyi

China may be striving to promote its domestic brands on the world stage, but at the same time, people have recognized the importance of introducing global brands and lifestyles to the domestic market.

Liu Chenjun, a former diplomat, is doing just that.



Opening ceremony of Liu's art exhibition at the National Centre of Performing Arts in April

Hospitality developer

From Paris, he joined the French Accor Group, working in its headquarters in Paris and branches in Beijing and Shanghai.

Eleven years later he became the general manager of Accor Hotel, Greater China and Accor Service, China.

"Accor provided management expertise in hotel management, developed their own hotels in various countries and regions," Liu said. "The core business is to attract customers to their hotels."

In the six years that Liu was at Accor, the number of hotels in China climbed from 20 to 150, covering Sofitel, Novotel, Pullman, Mercure and Ibis.

"It was in Accor that I learned the importance of developing your own brands and culture," he said. "Do this if you want to develop your business."

Due to his rich experience in hotel management, tourism and brand promotion, he was invited by a number of local governments as their consultants in economic development, and traveled to



Liu with his friends Jackie Chan and Zhang Ziyi at a Bazaar charity event

Shanghai, Tianjin, Hainan and Qingdao to give lectures.

Cruise vacation pioneer

"Luxury cruise ships are a totally new thing for Chinese customers," Liu said. "The cruise concept is a combination of entertainment, leisure, tourism and hospitality, something brand new and innovative to the Chinese travelers."

Six years ago, Liu joined the luxury Italian cruise group and



started to introduce the luxurious lifestyles from the Western world to the booming China marketplace.

As a pioneer of luxury cruises, Liu introduced the first luxury cruise ship to China in 2007, allowing him to win great honor and repute.

He was known by many in the market through his innovative ideas of marketing and his leadership to open new markets. Product placement in the movies, digital marketing, PR and events, all channels



CEO



"The essence of my job, wherever I am, is to make my clients discover and better enjoy their lives."

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Special



BQ Magazine selects Liu Chenjun "The Most Popular CEO." He was presented his award by Miss Liu Yan, the Olympic heroine.

seem to be open to him to promote the brand.

Now more cruise ships are coming to China over the years, including Royal Caribbean, Star Cruise and many others. China started operating its own luxury cruise ship this year, the Hainan Airlines (HNA) Henna in Asian countries and regions.

Lifestyle opener

Liu has kept a close cooperation with media, has been invited from time to time as a guest in the fashion and luxury industries. He was given the titles of "China's New Gentleman" by *Metropolis* in 2008, "Figure of Changes" by *Pictorial Weekend* in 2010 and "Populous CEO" by *Beijing Youth* magazine in 2011.

In September 2012, Liu was named CEO of Envy Fine Arts Asia, focusing on helping bring European cultural relics and art to China.

This April, Liu and his colleagues held an exhibition of 601 pieces of art and relics from 19th and 20th century France in Beijing.

The exhibition was called *Symphony in the Deep of Time – 18th and 19th Century French Salon Culture and Arts Precious Exhibition*. The National Center of the Performing Arts hosted it.

"We had many choices before the exhibition was held, like the National Museum of

China and National Art Museum," Liu said. "But we finally chose the modern building at the National Centre of the Performing Arts, close to the Forbidden City."

The hundreds of relics and works is a shock to the world cultural field and bring his business to the world stage.

"We target our exhibition to three groups of visitors: students interested in arts and relics, potential private collectors and culture lovers," he said.

The next step is to display relics and works from ancient times in various places, to let more Chinese appreciate the beauty of old France, Liu said.

"We are preparing to promote young European artists to China and Chinese artists to Europe," he said. "The first step is to set up a schedule for exhibitions."

"I hope to build a bridge between the peoples to understand, appreciate and enjoy the different histories, culture and human values behind each precious art work," Liu said. "But after all, I am here to listen to the market and my job of the CEO is to create added value to my company and to the market. The essence of my job, wherever I am, is to make my clients to discover and to better enjoy their lifestyle."

Between the lens and mirror

By Chen Nan

Of Times, Events, and Ruminations Past is finally available on the Chinese mainland.

The engaging autobiography of Chiang Ching shines new light on the resilient woman whose name has endured for more than six decades.

In her down-to-earth narration, she shares private details about her insights into art and life, including her artistic dream and her treasured friends.

Chiang's life is more than the story of a movie idol's captivating transition into modern dance and stage, but about her pioneering endeavor to change the nation's contemporary art climate.

A decade's delay

Chiang penned two books and taught dance at UC-Berkeley, Hunter College, the Beijing Dance Academy and the Swedish Dance Academy.

The former actress is best known as an internationally renowned choreographer and stage director who splits her time between Stockholm and New York, bringing the barefoot dance style started by Isadora Duncan to Chinese soil.

Jia Zuoguang, one of the

most respected choreographers in China and president of the Chinese Dancers' Association, has called her autobiography "an entertaining and moving story of enduring friendships and political climate, of hitting bottom and rising to the top again – that offers a unique and deeply personal perspective on China, Hong Kong and Taiwan and their elites."

But although it has been available in Hong Kong and Taiwan since the 1990s, the book remained taboo on the mainland until it was picked up this year by Guangxi

Normal University Press.

The delays owe much to her name, which is written with the same characters as the infamous Madame Mao.

"My name was deemed too sensitive to use during a certain period," Chiang said. "I have to be sensitive to those things lest I create the false impression that it is related to politics."

"It has brought me trouble for

almost 40 years – especially during the Cultural Revolution. Anyone who called my name loudly in a public place on the Chinese mainland would stun and terrify others," she said.

Stepping into showbiz

Chiang was universally acclaimed as a beauty of her generation. Born in Beijing and raised in Shanghai, Chiang enrolled at the Beijing Dance Academy at the age of 10.

Six years later, her family moved to Hong Kong.

At a family visit before her graduation, her parents confiscated her passport to prevent her from returning to Beijing, for fear that once she lost her student status, she would no longer be able to leave the mainland.

"I spoke little Cantonese, so my social life in the British colony came from enrolling in the Southern Drama School (an acting school run by the Shaw Brothers Studio)," she said. "I felt I had to do something to continue my artistic dream."

At that time, director Li Han-hsiang's *Seven Fairies* was about to enter production. He was told by his friends there was a trained dancer from Beijing who could coach the actresses in how to free their bodies.

After testing Chiang with a choreography assignment, Li immediately hired her to choreograph for his song and dance film. When the film's female lead quit, production was left with an ill-equipped understudy.

"Li didn't have backup plan and the movie needed to be completed soon," Chiang said. Li opted to re-cast Chiang as the lead. After the production, Li split from Shaw Brothers to open his own film company in Taiwan.

"I seemed to be his secret weapon for this professional move. In the wake of the controversy and mammoth publicity generated by the two competing productions

of *Seven Fairies*, Li had decided to shoot it in Taiwan, but Shaw Brothers was not willing to shelve the project in Hong Kong."

A series of propaganda competitions made Chiang a rising star even before her screen debut.

Thanks to her relentless effort, the film was a sensational hit that brought Chiang stardom. Two years later, she appeared in Li's *Hsi Shih: The Beauty of Beauties* (1966), a tale of one of China's Four Beauties said to have lived at the end of Spring and Autumn Period in Zhuji, Zhejiang Province.

From everything to nothing

In the 1970s, Chiang left for the US after her marriage came to a tragic end.

"Initially, I felt desperate and didn't know who I was and what I supposed to be. But my body, standing in front of a mirror, told me what to do next," she said. "Although I lost everything – my child, my career, my family and my wealth – I hadn't lost my expression. The only thing that I could rely on was my body."

Chiang left behind a life of lenses to return to mirrors. "It was a valuable chance for introspection. The mirror reflected everything and allowed me to see myself more clearly."

In 1973, she founded her Chiang Ching Dance Company in New York, the first Chinese modern dance company opened overseas. It was six years before Hong Kong's City Contemporary Dance Company would be founded by Willy Tsao.

Her troupe amassed diverse stage credits across Europe, North America and Asia.

A dance critic worked for the *New York Times*, Don McDonagh, praised her work, noting, "Chiang Ching does eccentric leaps that would please Martha Graham and classical grands battements that would delight George

Balanchine. She also does traditional Chinese dances that would please anyone."

Chiang disbanded her dance company in 1984 and left her artistic directorship at the Hong Kong Dance Company. She moved to Stockholm with her Swedish husband and son, where she established herself as a freelance choreographer and stage director.

The experience transformed her from a dancer into an internationally renowned theater artist.

In 2008, she brought *Tea: A Mirror of Soul*, an opera she staged at Stockholm's Dramaten, to Beijing for the Beijing Olympics Games.

Artists' haven

In addition to her original dance and stage works, Chiang has promoted new art and dance forms in China.

She recommended the then obscure young composer Tan Dun, with whom she would collaborate over the years, to score the film *Reign Behind a Curtain* (1983).

Tan, who later became a Chinese neoclassical composer, is most widely known for scoring *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon* and *Hero*.

"When I was a college student, Chiang came to our school as an American expert after the Cultural Revolution. She introduced me to contemporary dance, New Wave movies and avant-garde art," Tan said.

Chiang enlightened many in China, and also offered shelter to young Chinese artists in New York.

Among them is Liu Sola, one of Chiang's friends and the composer of many film scores and other pieces for orchestra, ensemble, opera, modern theater and modern dance.

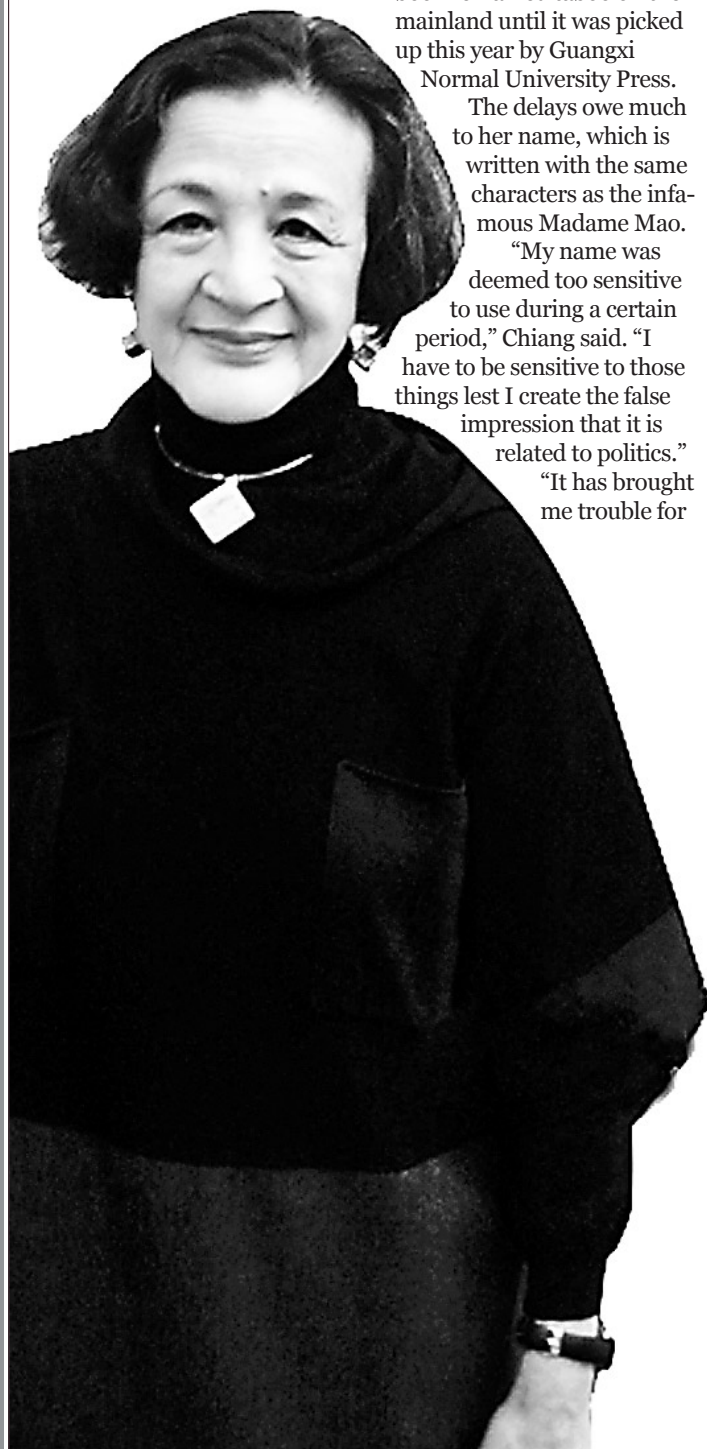
"Chiang's studio in New York has been a gathering place for artists such as Chen Danqing, Zhai Xiaosong and Ai Weiwei," Liu said.

Some have compared it to the artistic role served by Shakespeare and Company during World War II.



Dancer Chiang Ching

Photos provided by
Guangxi Normal
University Press



Coffee mill, bamboo products and a new store for buyers

By Annie Wei

This week, *Beijing Today* scouted some new toys.



Joy from Milan



Valentino handbag



CFP Photos

Coco & Breezy sunglasses



Mark McNairy bag

New buyer store

Bored of department stores and shopping malls carrying similar brands? Try P-plus, a new small buyer store at Parkview Green.

Apart from well-known brands like Furla, Givenchy, Sergio Rossi and CK Jeans, you can find products from Gianvito Rossi, Barbara Bui, Neil Barrett and Jil Sander Navy.

We like the big handbags from Jil Sander (6,500 yuan), made of polyester and leather with transparency in the middle. It carries more than you'd expect.

Big bags are practical during the summer, as one has to prepare an extra blazer in case the indoor air-conditioning gets too chilly, or an extra pair of heels for after-work parties.

Some shoes are not as expensive as you might expect, such as Bjil Moda's saddles starting from 1,200 yuan. Small accessories like McQ's thin leather bracelet with a mental pendant (starting at 600 yuan) are chic and affordable.

P-plus

Where: 1/F, Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am - 10 pm

Tel: 4001686658

Bamboo goes chic

Bamboo is considered a more eco-friendly material than wood. It is durable and can be as strong as steel when mixed with the right materials.

However, so little bamboo furniture or kitchenware exists in northern China. The main reason is that most bamboo products in the country remain handcrafted. Also, the designs are usually out of date and don't cater to modern living aesthetics.

But if you are interested in purchasing quality bamboo products, we recommend ekobohome.com, a home brand that produces useful and chic bamboo tableware.



Bamboo-made tables



Bamboo-made tableware

Photos provided by ekobohome.com



CFP Photo

Coffee mini mill

Coffee is expensive in China. It might be true that many customers just order a cup of cappuccino at 35 yuan and spend six hours sitting there. But for regular coffee drinkers who need one or two cups per day, it's better just to brew your own.

Instead of buying ground coffee, we recommend checking out a mini coffee mill from Hario, a leading Japanese brand. Its MSS-1B model (158 yuan) is an easy-to-use grinder. Its ceramic conical burrs generate less heat, so it retains more of the aroma and flavor of coffee beans.

It's small, easy to clean and ideal for picnics.

Website: fisheycfe.taobao.com

Famous restaurants opening in Parkview Green

By Annie Wei

The Parkview Green, with its valuable location and spectacular architecture, has gained lots of attention since opening at the end of last year. However, not until recently has its foot traffic picked up, thanks to the opening of restaurants and brands.

This week, *Beijing Today* reviewed two restaurants – Opera Bombana and Burger Bar – both opened by overseas celebrity chefs.



Boston lobster in red wine sauce

Opera Bombana – a three-starred Michelin dining experience

Before the restaurant officially opened on Wednesday, the reviews from the city's food critics were overwhelmingly positive.

It's the third restaurant named after Bombana in China. In 2010, chef Umberto Bombana opened 8½ Otto e Mezzo Bombana in Hong Kong, which earned him three stars from Michelin this year.

Last year, he opened the same restaurant in Shanghai. The name is a tribute to the chef's Italian director Federico Fellini's 1963 autobiographical movie *8½*, which is a celebration of both Italian lifestyle and art.

The Beijing restaurant is called Opera, which in Italian can be used in multiple contexts describing creation.

Unlike the restaurants in Hong Kong and Shanghai, which focus more on "fine Italian dining," the Beijing restaurant is more casual. Pastries, cocktails and coffee are on the menu.

The bakery is something that the other two Bombana restaurants do not have.

"Bread is important in Italian culture," said chef Bombana, who designed the menu, on the restaurant's opening day. The bakery will introduce unique Italian bread made the natural way.

The restaurant brought in master baker Giuliano Pediconi, who has been making a kind of yeast from grapes in Italy since 2006. They have a machine to keep the yeast active.

All flours are imported organic ones. Different flours are for different breads. Soon diners can try its afternoon tea, paired with a wide range of delicious pastries. The breads are also for takeaway, starting from 18 yuan each.

The menu was co-designed by chef Marino D'Antonio, who has been popular among local diners since working for Sureno at the Opposite House.

We tried its degustation menu (588



Inside Opera Bombana

yuan) of five courses. The first was marinated scampi topped with caviar, sea urchin, orange Chantilly and citrus dressing. It was a great combination.

The second is roast duck foie gras topped with lemon confit and paired with olive pate and honey on bread.

We liked the tagliatelle with unique flavors of sea urchin, zucchini and Sardinian bottarga.

For a main dish, one can try the seared tuna, which is delicious with its sauce of roast artichoke, saffron, capers and olive; or the short rib and beef tenderloin. The way the ribs were cooked would definitely cater to Chinese dining habits, tender and savory, meaty and flavorful.

For dessert, we tried the trio of pistachio. Loads of nuts were prepared with ice cream, creamy and caramelized.

Opera has a nice cellar with room for 4,000 bottles. So far, they have more than 300 kinds of wines, and many are available for ordering by glass.

Opera Bombana

Where: Unit 21, B2, Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: Noon – 2:30 pm for lunch, 3-10:30 pm for afternoon tea and cocktail bar, 6-10:30 pm for dinner

Tel: 5690 1777

Green risotto with spring vegetable and slow braised beef tongue



Photos provided by Opera Bombana

Burger Bar – perhaps the best burger in town

Before its opening in June, the Burger Bar, from Californian chef Hubert Keller, hosted a few tastings that had visitors raving it had the best burgers in town.

We tried the Mediterranean lamb burger, filled with ground lamb, marinated eggplant, feta cheese, mint, cilantro, tomato and red onion served on an olive bun.

We liked the lamb, which was and paired with the stronger-flavored eggplant.

The Hubert Keller burger featured Mongolian yak, caramelized onions, baby spinach, goat cheese on a ciabatta bun. It's served with red wine and shallot sauce.

The Mongolian yak is farm-raised in Inner Mongolian, so the burger requires one-week advance order. It tastes like American buffalo, but leaner. Some diners preferred this burger the most, as the filling has more layers.

All meat burgers have 170 grams of meat.

The restaurant's chop salad is a must-try. We like the rich vegetables, including endives, avocados, pickled beets, grilled asparagus, apple, candied walnuts and goat cheese, with lemon yogurt dressing. The lemon gave the salad a nice, acidic flavor with good aroma.

The wild mushroom mac and cheese with a side of broccoli ra'ab was very good as well. The pasta was full of flavors and the broccoli is like the Chinese wok-fried vegetables but more tasty.

The servings are big, and burgers are paired with a small basket of fries.

The decoration is classic American sports bar with dark wood color. Each table has its own TV screen.

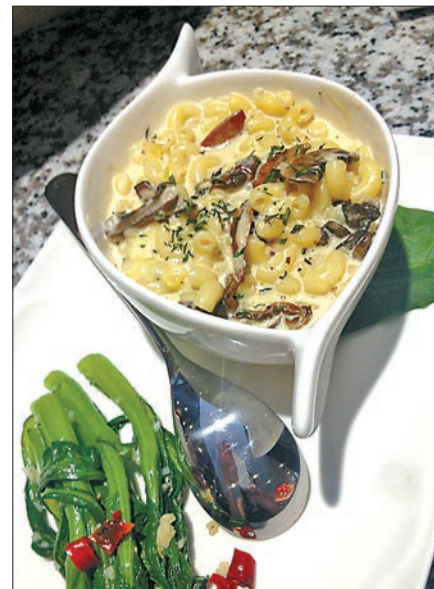
It also has quite a spacious terrace, ideal for summer nights out with the boys.

Burger Bar

Where: B2, Parkview Green, 9 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District
Open: 11 am – late



Mediterranean lamb burger



The wild mushroom mac and cheese
Photos by An Jianda